

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

OMB-01 CU-04 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 GAC-01 RSR-01 /131 W
----- 082164

R 171034 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5787

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

ALL CSCE CAPITALS 135

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0707

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: MPT HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 12-16

FROM USDEL MPT

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR DISTO

BEGIN SUMMARY. SOME MOVEMENT ON SUBSTANCE -- BUT NO RPT NO
MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS -- OCCURRED DURING THE WEEK. THERE IS
GROWING SENTIMENT AMONG PARTICIPANTS THAT TIME HAS COME TO
MOVE FORWARD MORE RAPIDLY, AND THEY REACHED AGREEMENT ON SOME
PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT SHOULD FACILITATE SUBSTANTIVE
PROGRESS. SOVIET DELEGATION PRIVATELY APPEARS QUITE RELAXED
ABOUT PACE OF WORK TO DATE. CURRENTLY, WARSAW PACT DELE-
GATIONS, NEUTRALS, AND-- MORE DISCREETLY BUT QUITE FIRMLY-- US,
CANADA AND NORWAY, HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT ADVOCATES OF ACCELERATED
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WORK. ATTITUDES OF EC NINE SHOULD BECOME CLEARER NEXT WEEK, IN AFTERMATH OF THEIR POLITICAL DIRECTORS' AND FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. SOVIETS HINTED AT SOME TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR APPROACH TO MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY. EC NINE AND NATO CONSULTATIONS HAVE AGAIN BEGUN TO MESH HARMONIOUSLY, AND FOCUS OF INTEREST HAS NOW SHIFTED TO GATHERINGS AMONG THE 15. END SUMMARY.

1. FACE OF WORK. MPT ESTABLISHED TWO SO-CALLED MINI-GROUPS FOR DRAFTING PURPOSES-- ONE DEALING ALTERNATELY WITH TWO ASPECTS OF THE SECURITY TOPIC (PRINCIPLES AND MILITARY SECURITY ISSUES), THE SECOND WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN. (IN FACT, THIS TERM IS MISNOMER SINCE 20 OR MORE DELS ATTEND MOST MINI-GROUP GATHERINGS.) ALL MPT PARTICIPANTS APPARENTLY AGREE THAT THE FULL WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE UP COOPERATION (PRESUMABLY ECONOMIC) ISSUES NEXT WEEK, WHILE THE MINI-GROUPS GRAPPLE CONCURRENTLY WITH SECURITY TOPICS AND THE MEDITERRANEAN. PLENARY AGREED ON MARCH 16 TO CONTINUE MPT ROUND III UNTIL APRIL 6, WHEREAS EARLIER DISPOSITION AMONG MOST WESTERN DELS HAD BEEN TO BREAK ON MARCH 30.

2. NEITHER IN MENDELEVICH'S LENGTHY BILATERAL WITH VEST ON MARCH 16 NOR DURING CASUAL CORRIDOR CONTACTS HAVE THE RUSSIANS EXPRESSED ANY ANXIETY ABOUT THE RATE OF PROGRESS TO DATE OR FUTURE MPT PROSPECTS. NEVERTHELESS MOST NEUTRALS HAVE BEGUN TO SHOW SOME IRRITATION AT DELIBERATE APPROACH OF THE EC NINE. THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT UNITED AMONG THEMSELVES; GERMANS, BRITISH, DUTCH AND DANES ARE CURRENTLY READY TO MOVE FASTER THAN THE FRENCH, ITALIANS AND BELGIANS WOULD PREFER. ATTITUDES AMONG THE NINE MAY EVOLVE FOLLOWING THEIR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS ON MARCH 15 AND 16.

3. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES: MILITARY ASPECTS. SOVIETS, FRANCE AND US STATED THEIR STRONG OBJECTIONS TO ANY MBFR-CSCE LINKAGE. SOVIETS DID, HOWEVER, INTIMATE WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPHS IN SECURITY MANDATE ON RELATIONS BETWEEN POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY, ON NEED TO ENHANCE STABILITY, AND ON "COOPERATION" IN DISARMAMENT. FRANCE SUGGESTED IT COULD GO ALONG ON FIRST TWO POINTS BUT WILL REMAIN EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS ON LAST.

4. PRINCIPLES OF INTERSTATE RELATIONS. DRAFTING EXERCISE IN MINI-GROUP HAS BEEN CONFUSED AND INCONCLUSIVE TO DATE. FRG DEL TELLS US THAT AMBASSADOR BRUNNER WILL RETURN ON MONDAY TO OUT-CONFIDENTIAL

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LINE GERMAN COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON RELATED ISSUES OF SOURCES

AND CATALOGUE OF PRINCIPLES, WHICH MAY GIVE ADDED IMPETUS TO DRAFTING WORK. HOWEVER, STRONG SOVIET OPPOSITION (EXPRESSED DURING VEST- MENDELEVICH BILATERAL MARCH 16) TO ANY STATEMENT OF INTERRELATIONSHIP AMONG PRINCIPLES-- A CENTRAL ELEMENT IN FRG THINKING-- SUGGESTS THERE WILL BE HARD BARGAINING ON THIS ISSUE.

5. WESTERN CONSULTATIONS. NATO CAUCUS AND THREE USEFUL SESSIONS THIS WEEK, THEREBY ALLEVIATING EARLIER ANXIETIES OF SOME AMONG THE 15 THAT EC NINE GATHERINGS HAD BEGUN TO PREEMPT NATO CONSULTATIONS.
PETERSON

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